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The Rubicon has been Passed.

It will be seen by the news from Charleston, which we publish in another column, that the fatal blow has been struck, and that hostilities have actually commenced between the National Government and the seceding States. We have seen the commencement of the struggle, shall we ever see its close? Have we only beheld the commencement of a rebellion which will be crushed out in a few months, without affecting the stability of the Union or weakening the belief in the minds of thinking men of the capacity of man for self government, or have we beheld the first death throes of the last free Government on the face of God's earth? These are questions which time only can answer. The cloud which rests upon the future of our Country is black and lowering indeed. It may have its silver lining, but we cannot perceive it. Ages ago an inspired prophet predicted 'a day of darkness and gloominess, of clouds and thick darkness.' We fear we have beheld the beginning of such a day in this country. The Union now seems poised on the verge of destruction. It is already weakened if not broken, and nothing will restore it to us, as it was transmitted to us by our revolutionary sires, but the interposition of that gracious Being, 'who hath made' and thus far 'preserved us a Nation.'

As an American citizen, taught from our earliest years to love our Country, the Union which holds it together, its constitution and its laws, its free institutions, had become as dear to us as the blood that warms our hearts. We had marked its progress for years, in all the elements of greatness and prosperity with emotions of pride and pleasure, and it is with emotions of profound sorrow we now behold the spectacle of the States which compose it occupying a hostile and belligerent position towards each other, and mark the signs which tell us, that we shall soon see the land of our love, drenched in fraternal blood. Patriotism has done its work. The spirit of false philanthropy, which has for years been endeavoring to elevate the African Negro by the destruction of the fairest fabric of Government ever reared by the hand of man has we fear at length triumphed. If so, there is at least some consolation in knowing that the great national and conservative Party, to which we belong, and with which we have always acted, had no hand in the almost paralytic act, but that on the contrary it fearlessly stemmed and endeavored to beat back the torrent of Abolitionism and fanaticism which swept over the Country in triumph, on that ill omened day in last November, when Abraham Lincoln, standing on a sectional platform, was elected President of the United States.

to discuss now. The time for that calm and tranquil thought, suited for its discussion in a temperate candid, and dispassionate manner has gone by, and we are unwilling to say anything now calculated to inflame the public mind, or do ought to weaken the league of love which we once fondly hoped would hold the Union together forever. We prefer rather to inquire what is the proper course for a true philanthropic, conservative, Union loving patriot, to pursue at the present time.

It may be, that since the Gulf States have determined to withdraw from the Union, that it would have been better to have acknowledged their independence, and allowed them to retire peacefully, rather than plunge the Country into the horrors of civil war. But the President is not empowered to do this. It is a right vested in Congress, and in it alone. It adjourned a few weeks ago, without doing so, and the President is undoubtedly bound to regard the revolted States as still in the Union, and subject to its laws. It is also clearly his duty to endeavor, at least, to see that these laws are executed in all of said States, taking care in doing so, not to go beyond the limits prescribed by the Constitution which is given him for his chart and guide.

We entertain no doubt that the pacific policy inaugurated by Mr. Buchanan, and apparently favored by several weeks by Mr. Lincoln, tending as it did, to keep Virginia and the other Border States in the Union, and bring about the adoption of such amendments to the Constitution as would probably have ultimately brought back the seceding States, should not have been so hastily abandoned. But Mr. Lincoln in determining to send provisions to Fort Sumter, 'peaceably if possible, otherwise by force' was acting strictly within the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the laws of our Country, and probably from a stern sense of imperative duty. He was merely taking the first step in the effort to execute the laws in States which he is bound to regard as still members of the Union. This was not a coercion, this was not an attempted invasion of a sovereign State, but an effort to execute the laws; and no law abiding citizen, after carefully investigating the case can excuse him for doing so. He is the executive, not the law making power, and it is his duty, acting with proper discretion, to execute those laws, whether that duty be a painful or pleasant one. We have no right to complain from what has been done, that Mr. Lincoln intends commencing a civil war, a war of carnage and extermination against the Gulf States, or to proceed further than it is necessary to execute the revenue laws. Indeed he stands pledged in his inaugural address to pursue exactly the opposite course. To show that we do not misrepresent him in this, we make the following extract from his inaugural address: 'I therefore consider that, in view of the Constitution and laws, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins on me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this I deem it to be only a duty on my part, and I shall perform it so far as practicable unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withhold the requisite means, or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary. I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union, that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself. In doing this there need be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none, unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power conferred to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the government; to collect duties and imposts; and to execute all laws which may be necessary for these objects, but there will be no invasion, no using of force against any one of the States, and no attempt to interfere with the liberty of any State in its domestic concerns. Where hostility to the United States, in any interior locality, shall be so great, and so universal, as to prevent competent resident citizens from holding federal offices, there will be no attempt to force obnoxious strangers among the people that inhabit the same. While the legal right may exist in the government to enforce its authority in such cases, the attempt to do so would be so irritating, and so nearly impracticable withal, that I deem it better to forego for some time the use of such offices. The mails, unless repelled, will continue to be furnished in all parts of the Union, so far as possible. The people everywhere shall have the same perfect security which is most favorable to calm thought and reflection.'

While Mr. Lincoln continues to pursue the line of action which he has thus laid down for his guidance, he will be doing nothing more than what is strictly right and just, and he will be therefore entitled to the endorsement and support of his fellow countrymen. If he should hereafter go beyond the limits of the constitution and laws, he would be clearly wrong, and doing that with which the Gulf States are now charged will have done. But we have no right to infer that he intends doing so. At the beginning of this trying and perilous crisis, which is apparently passing with so many eyes upon ourselves, for your children, for all who are near and dear to you, it behooves you, fellow citizens, to act with prudence and firmness, and in the spirit of enlightened patriotism. Let us remember that however gloomy the present hour may be, there is a God who will lead us, the destinies of Nations, and who, if he will, can soon bring out of darkness the rainbow of promise. Let us not seek to add fuel to the flames of civil war, or counsel any step that does not look to the restoration of peace and tranquility to our now broken and distracted country. Let us not go into the strife like savage dogs gnawing at blood, but like civilized men endeavoring to preserve unimpaired the Union and our free institutions, as they were transmitted to us by the heroes and sages of the revolution. Let us not act like the infuriated populace of Paris during the French Revolution, but with something of the firmness, the discretion, the bravery and prudent care, which characterized our great Washington, during the struggle that tried the souls of men.

The editor of the Alleghenian informed the world last week, that he has often heard a horse laugh. Yes, and he has doubtless seen a horse fly. Furthermore, Mordecai is of the opinion, that the readers of the Alleghenian have heard an Ass bray every week, since Caleb Smith became a correspondent of that very spiny and chaste sheet. Although Mordecai don't understand Latin he says some very sensible things occasionally.

Hon. L. W. Hall of this district, it is said, he elected Speaker of the State Senate, before the adjournment of that body. He has already been extensively puffed by Republican newspapers. Well, he is a very clever fellow, and about as good as the 'common run' of Black Republican law makers now a days. It is generally believed, by those who know him, that he cares more about Sam than Samba, and that he is not really a nigger-worshipper at heart.

Mr. Edwin Forrest, the great tragedian, will, it is said, in a few weeks retire from the stage forever.

War Programme.

The military editor of a New York paper, has prepared the following military programme for Mr. Lincoln and Genl. Scott, for conquering the seceding States and restoring tranquility to the Country—

First—Throw into the Southern part of Texas by sea, disposable army force and some five thousand volunteers in addition.

Second—Call upon the Northwestern States, forthwith, to furnish fifty thousand volunteers to assemble without delay at the U. S. Arsenal at Baton Rouge, first concentrating at Carin, at the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

Third—Call upon Pennsylvania, New York and the Eastern States, for fifty thousand volunteers, to assemble without unnecessary delay, at Washington in the District of Columbia.

Fourth—Commence a march with this latter army to the Southwest, leaving of course, a strong force at the seat of Government, and at the same time direct the army at the West assembled at Baton Rouge, to form a junction with it at Montgomery or any other point that may be deemed advisable, leaving a sufficient force to protect the United States Arsenal in the country through which the armies may have to pass; and of course taking the necessary measures to protect the friends of the Union against any traitors who may be found in rebellion against the Government in that quarter.

We are not enough of a military man to risk an opinion, as to whether this is or not a good programme in a military point of view, but at all events Mr. Lincoln cannot adopt it without violating the declaration in his inaugural that 'no State shall be invaded,' and that he will proceed no farther than to see that the U. S. revenues laws are executed in the seceding States. We presume the administration has not yet entertained any idea of commencing a war of invasion, as the avowed object of the military and naval demonstrations in the Gulf is simply defensive.

At a special communication of Summit Lodge No. 312, A. Y. M., held at Masonic Hall, Ebensburg, April 9th, A. L. 5861, the death of Bro. James S. Clark, being announced, the following Preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas it having pleased the Almighty disposer of events to take from our midst our much esteemed Bro. James S. Clark, whose wise and kind condonatory course was so materially useful with us in the present prosperous working of our order, and whose discreet and philosophic life honored Masonry, and endeared him to all with whom he has been associated, therefore

Resolved, That in the Providence of God who has taken our beloved Brother, James S. Clark from our midst to the rest prepared for the just and good above, we, of the whole Masonic family, have been called upon to part with one, who by his uniform and wise acts was entitled to a high position in our Councils, and was endeared to each of us personally.

Resolved, That in his untiring efforts to advance a knowledge of the wisdom contained in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, he nobly battled against prejudice, yet by his uniform kind manner he was respected and esteemed by all.

Resolved, That as a faithful token of our esteem and remembrance, we will clothe our Lodge Room in mourning for the space of sixty days.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be handed to the family of our departed Brother, and that they be published in the papers of this place.

DAVID J. JONES } Com. C. THOS. ROBERTS } D. C. ZAHM }

MARRIED.—In Loretto on the 9th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Augustine D. Christie, to Miss Kate O'Bryan.

Our young friends have acted wisely in thus forming a union for life, the terms of which do not recognize the right of either secession or coercion, and which is rendered proof against dissolution, save by death, by the silken tie that binds two willing hearts. Mordecai, who was sitting at our elbow when we indited the above, after perusing it remarked—'Yes, Mr. Editor, they have acted wisely. I know from experience that it is a melancholy thing to be an old bachelor, and it must be fifty per cent worse to be an old maid. Mr. Editor, I am certain that a good wife is a glorious institution, and you will probably one day discover that there is nothing in this world half so sweet as first love. Small beer is glorious but it won't compare with it, and that is saying a good deal. It is pleasant to think of even in our old days'—and the old man then commenced humming to himself one of Moore's melodies—

My heart's chain wove; When my dream of life, from morn 'till night, Was love; still love! New hope may bloom, And days may come, Of milder calmer beam, But there's nothing half so sweet in life As love's young dream.'

Union House.—We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this justly popular hotel in another column. The Proprietor it will be seen, is determined to spare no pains or expense to sustain its well earned reputation.

LATEST.—The President has issued his Proclamation calling out 75,000 of the Militia, 15,000 from this State. Also calling an extra session of Congress on the 4th of July next.

We learn that a military company will be formed in town, on next Friday evening, for the purpose of tendering their services to the Government.

We direct the attention of all interested to the Mercantile Appraiser's list.

It may be that our friend Raymond of the Hollidaysburg Whig, in entering on the discharge of his duties as mail messenger, has prest the first round of the ladder of fame. This was the first office filled by the illustrious John Quincy Adams, as more fully and at large appears in the following extract from a biographical sketch of the elder Adams—'Mrs. Adams in writing a letter to her husband then in Philadelphia, immediately after the battle of Bunkerhill says. Our Johnny has come to the distinction of being mail messenger between Braintree and Boston.' This Johnny was afterwards President of the United States. May not Raymond justly hope to be equally fortunate? Great oaks from little acorns grow. We hope his brightest expectations may be realized, and that he may continue to ascend upwards.

The Legislature in compliance with the suggestions contained in the Governor's message, which we publish in another column, has passed a law for arming the militia of the State. Half a million of dollars is appropriated for this purpose and several new officers created. The object of course is to provide for a few hungry and clamorous office seekers, and to enable a certain favorite to 'make a nice thing' out of the contract for furnishing arms ammunition &c. As no apprehensions are entertained that the State will be invaded by either foreign or domestic foes, we can see no necessity for such a law. All the Democratic members voted against it.

A bill has passed the Legislature dividing the borough of Ebensburg into two wards. All the said borough West of Centre street, to be known as the West ward—elections to be held in the Town Hall. All East of Centre street to be known as the East ward—elections to be held in the Court House. The citizens of the School District outside of the borough limits, are to vote for School Directors in the East ward. We will publish the Act as soon as we receive a correct copy of it. The West ward is strongly Democratic, while in the East ward the Republicans have a decided majority.

DIED.—At the Cambria Co. Poor House, on Saturday, April 13th, D. GUSTAVUS VICTOR TIDEMAN, aged 53 years.

The deceased was, in his day, a man of eminence. He was Court Physician for a number of years to the King of Hanover, Germany. He came to this country a few years since, broken in health and fortune, and settled in Carrolltown. Becoming sick, he was taken in charge by the Directors of the poor, and conveyed to the Poor House, where he died as above stated.

Rifling Season.—The recent heavy rains would doubtless enable our hardy and enterprising Northern friends, who are engaged in the lumbering business, to start on their annual rafting voyage, down the raging Susquehanna. An unusually large amount of timber was taken out in that region during the last winter, and we hope the prices may be such as to sufficiently reward all engaged in it, for their toil and hardships.

We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the 'Ebensburg House,' Mr. Isaac Crawford, Proprietor. This has always been one of the most popular hotels in the County, and we are certain its well earned reputation will be fully sustained by Mr. Crawford. He 'knows how to keep a hotel' and make his customers feel at home. The truth is, Ebensburg is hard to beat for first class hotels, and accommodating landlords.

The Commissioners of the Southern Confederacy have left Washington, deeming it probably, no longer safe quarters for them.—The next conflict between the U. S. troops and the Southern forces will probably take place at Fort Pickens, Pensacola, Florida, as the administration at Washington, is determined that it shall be reinforced at all hazards. The forces of the seceders in Pensacola, are said to be large.

The new apportionment bill for members of Congress has passed the State Senate as reported, and will probably pass the House at an early day. We learn that it places Cambria in a district along with Blair, Huntingdon & Millin. This will not render us any better or any worse off than we are now as the present district is hopelessly Republican.

The white population of the States South of Mason and Dixon's line, is about 8,000,000, that of the free States about 18,000,000. The total number of slaves is, 3,949,557. The white population of the Seceding States is nearly three millions.

T. J. Coffey, Esq., formerly of Indiana in this State, has entered on the discharge of his duties as assistant U. S. Attorney General.

If you want to buy good and cheap ready made clothing, call at the store of D. J. Evans & Son, on High street. They sell good articles, and sell them cheap too.

The Communication of 'A Democrat,' was received and set up for this issue. It was unavoidably crowded out by the war news. It will appear in our next issue.

It is said that Hon. John Bell of Tennessee, will be a candidate for Congress at the approaching election in that State.

The rumored insurrection in New Mexico turns out to be a hoax. Nothing of the kind was attempted.

Mr. D. W. Moore, has straddled once more, the tripod of the 'Clearfield Republican.' Welcome back, and may success attend you.

The war bill recently passed by the Legislature authorizing the Adjutant General to call out the militia of the State, on the requisition of the President.

The army in Charleston amounted to about 4000 men at the commencement of the attack on Fort Sumter.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS. FROM CHARLESTON.

WAR VESSELS OFF CHARLESTON HARBOR.

Signal Lights Displayed From Fort Sumter.

Enter From Enterprise—Return of Lieut. Talbot from Fort Sumter—Message of Governor Curtin to the State Legislature.

New York, April 9.—The Herald has received a special dispatch from Charleston, dated this morning, giving the following items of interest—

A fleet of seven Government war vessels was reported off the Bar, and Major Anderson displayed signal lanterns from Fort Sumter during the night.

At midnight all the military in the city were ordered under arms.

Lieut. Talbot, who had arrived at Charleston, with dispatches for Major Anderson, was denied access to Fort Sumter, and has since started on his return to Washington.

Special dispatch to the N. Y. Herald.—CHARLESTON, April 8.—midnight.—The authorities received a notification that supplies would be furnished to Major Anderson, by the U. S. Government, at any hazard.—Immense preparations were immediately commenced to repel any such attempt, and orders were issued for the entire military reserve to proceed to their several stations. Four regiments, of a thousand men each, were telegraphed for from the country. Ambulances, and other preparations for the wounded are being made.

At midnight, seven guns from the citadel were fired as the signal for the assembling of the Reserves, and the city was thrown into the greatest excitement.

The Seventeenth Regiment, eight hundred strong, assembled in an hour, and left for the fortifications.

At three o'clock in the morning all the vessels in the harbor necessary for transporting the troops, will be put in service.—A fleet of seven Government war vessels are reported off the bar, and Major Anderson has apparently been in communication with them by means of signal lanterns displayed from Fort Sumter.

Lieut. Talbot was denied admission to Fort Sumter by the authorities. R. S. CURRY brought dispatches from Washington to Gov. PICKENS, announcing that Fort Sumter would be supplied with provisions, and in company with Lieut. Talbot he left for Washington at 11 o'clock to night.

Charleston, April 10.—The floating battery, in a finished condition and fully manned, was taken out of the dock last evening, and anchored in a cove near Sullivan's Island. Our people are not excited, but there is a fixed determination to meet the issue. An additional regiment of 1000 men is hourly expected from the interior.

The Convention adjourned at 1 o'clock this afternoon, subject to the call of the President. About one thousand troops were sent to the fortifications to-day. Eighteen hundred more will go down to-morrow. A large number of the members of the Convention, after the adjournment, volunteered as privates. About seven thousand troops are now at the fortifications.

HARRISBURG, April 9.—The following is the message of Gov. Curtin.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Gentlemen: As the period fixed for the adjournment of the Legislature is rapidly approaching, I feel constrained by a sense of duty, to call your attention to the condition of the military organization of the State. It is scarcely necessary to say more than that the militia system of the State, during the long period, distinguished by pursuits of peaceful industry, exclusively, has become wholly insufficient, and the interference of the Legislature is required to remove its defects, and to render it useful and available to the public service. Many of our volunteer companies do not possess the number of men required by our military law, and steps should be forthwith taken to supply these deficiencies. There are numerous companies, too, that are without the necessary arms, and of the arms that are distributed, few are provided with the more modern appliances, and render them serviceable. I recommend, therefore, that the Legislature make immediate provision for the removal of these capital defects, that arms be procured and distributed to those of our citizens who enter into the military service of the State, and that steps be taken to change the guns already distributed by the adoption of such well known and tried implements as will render them effective in the event of their employment in actual service.

In this connection I recommend the establishment of a military bureau at the capital, and that the militia laws of the Commonwealth be so modified and amended as to impart to the military organization of the State the vitality and energy so essential to its practical value and usefulness. Precautions such as I have suggested are wise and proper at all times in a government like ours, but especially and momentous considerations, arising from the condition of public affairs outside of our own limits, yet of incalculable consequence to the people, and demanding the greatest attention of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, invest the subject with extraordinary interest and importance.

We cannot be insensible to the fact that serious jealousies and divisions distract the public mind, and that in portions of this Union the peace of the Country, if not the safety of the Government itself is endangered. Military organizations of a formidable character, which seems to be not demanded by any existing public exigency, have been formed in certain States. On whatever pretext these ex-

traordinary military preparations may have been made, no purpose that may contemplate resistance to the enforcement of the laws, or the people of this Commonwealth. Pennsylvania yields to no State in her respect for the rights and liberties of her citizens, and willingness to protect, by all available means, the constitutional rights and the institutional independence of her sister States.

The most exalted public policy and the obligations of true patriotism, therefore, admonish us in the existing deplorable and dangerous crisis of affairs, that our military arm should receive from the Legislature the prompt attention which the public exigency either of the State or the Nation may appear to demand, and which may seem in your wisdom best adapted to preserve and to secure to the people of Pennsylvania and the Union the blessings of peace, and the integrity and stability of our unrivalled Constitutional Government.

The Government of this State was established by its illustrious founders in deep peace. Our people have been trained and disciplined in those arts which lead to the promotion of their own moral physical development and progress, and with the highest regard for the rights of others, have cultivated fraternal relations with the people of all the States devoted to the Constitution and Union, and always recognizing the principle of concession and compromise that underlies the foundation of the Government.

Pennsylvania offers no council and takes no action in the nature of a menace. Her desire is for peace, and her object the preservation of personal and political rights of citizens of true sovereignty of States and supremacy of law and order.—Anxious by these means, and indulging in an earnest belief in the speedy restoration of these harmonious and friendly relations between the States of this Confederacy, which have brought her beloved country to a condition of unequalled power and prosperity, I commit the subject of this communication to your consideration.

The message was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses, to report by bill.

Ex-Treasurer Siffer expresses the opinion that no State is necessary in order to supply an appropriation of half a million dollars for war purposes.

THE WAR HAS COMMENCED. WAR FLEET OFF CHARLESTON HARBOR.

First Dispatch.—The light has been seen. The ball has been opened at Fort Mifflin's Island, Morris Island, and other points in the harbor. The batteries on Fort Sumter returned the fire, and a brisk engagement has been kept up. No information has been received from the seceding States. The militia are under arms, and the whole population are on the streets. There is available space facing the harbor in front with anxious spectators.

The firing has continued all day with intermission. Two of Fort Sumter's batteries have been silenced. It is reported that breach has been made in the southeast corner of Fort Sumter. The answer made by Major Anderson to Gen. Beauregard's demand was that he would surrender when his supplies were exhausted. Not a casualty has yet happened to any of our men. The Commandant of the nineteen batteries in position on seven have opened on Fort Sumter. The remainder are held in reserve for the regular fleet. Two thousand men reached the city this morning, and embarked for Morris Island and other points in the neighborhood.

Fourth Dispatch.—Received at Philadelphia at ten o'clock, P. M.—The bombardment at Fort Sumter still continues. The heavy battery and Steven's battery are operating freely. Fort Sumter continues to return the fire. It is reported that three war vessels are outside the bar.

Fifth Dispatch.—The firing has ceased for the night, to be renewed at daylight in the morning, unless an attempt be made in the meantime, to reinforce Fort Sumter, in which case, ample arrangements have been made. The seceders have worked their guns admirably well. Only two were wounded. The Pawnee, Harriet Lane, and a third war steamer are reported off the bar. Fish troops are arriving here by every train.

LATER. FORT SUMTER SURRENDERED.

AMOUNT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED.

Call for an Extra Session of Congress—Seventy Five Thousand Troops Called For

CHARLESTON, April 11, Evening.—Hostilities have for the present ceased, and the victory belongs to South Carolina. With the display of the flag of truce on the ramparts of Fort Sumter at half past 1 o'clock the firing ceased and an unconditional surrender was made. The Carolinians had no idea that the fight was at an end. As soon as the flag staff Major Anderson was shot away. Col. Wigfall, the aid of General Beauregard, at his commander's request, went to Fort Sumter with a white flag to offer assistance in extinguishing the flames. He approached the burning fortress from Morris' Island, and while the firing was raging on all sides he effected a landing at Sumter. He approached a port hole, and was met by Major Anderson, the commandant at the Fort.

The latter said he had just displayed a white flag, but the firing was kept up nevertheless. Col. Wigfall replied that Major Anderson must haul down the American flag—that no party would be granted. Surrender or fight was the word. Anderson then hauled down the flag and displayed only the flag of truce. All firing instantly ceased, and it was stipulated that the surrender should be unconditional, and that Major Anderson would be allowed to remain in actual possession of the Fort, while Messrs. Chestnut and Manning came over to the city accompanied by a member of the Palmetto guards, bearing the colors of his company.

Shouts rent the air and the wild joy was manifested on account of the welcome tidings. Gen. Beauregard and his staff, accompanied by a few others were on a visit to Fort Sum-